

Please insert the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for the enantioselective preparation of substituted sulfoxide derivatives. The method comprises carrying out an enantioselective oxidation of a sulphide of general formula (I): $A-CH_2-S-B$ (I), where A=a variously-substituted pyridyl nucleus and B = a heterocyclic group with a benzimidazole or imidazopyranyl nucleus, by means of an oxidising agent in the presence of a catalyst based on tungsten or vanadium and a chiral ligand, followed, where necessary, by salt formation with a base to give the sulfoxide: $A-CH_2-SO-B$ (Ia). The above is of application to the enantioselective preparation of compounds such as the enantiomers of tenatoprazole and other comparable sulfoxides.